

**Within Our Reach:
A Community Partnership to End Homelessness**

**Steering Committee Notes
for June 29, 2005 Meeting**

Meeting was called to order by Co-chair Mayor Beverly O'Neill.

Self-introductions were made by attendees.

Mayor O'Neill introduced Ed Cabrera from U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness who briefly described the role of steering committees that helped complete 10-year homeless plans in other communities.

Mayor O'Neill gave an explanation of the planning structure for the Long Beach 10-year homeless plan and introduced co-chair Mike Murray who further introduced himself to attendees.

Corinne Schneider, Department of Health and Human Services, gave an explanation of the materials contained in the notebooks given to Steering Committee members.

Power Point presentation entitled "The Risk of Becoming Homeless in Long Beach" was presented by Corinne Schneider. Power Point is available on-line at http://www.longbeach.gov/health/organization/hss/homeless_services/10_year_plan_to_end_homeless.asp.

Evenings on the 2nd or 3rd Wednesday of each month were established as future meeting times for the Steering Committee.

Corinne Schneider then answered questions concerning the definition of sub-committees and the role of faith-based organizations.

Ron Arias, Department of Health and Human Services, explained that the Department is concerned with quality of life issues in the city and is involved in a variety of challenging issues including homelessness.

Mike Murray introduced Chris Steinhausen, Superintendent of Long Beach Unified School District who confirmed some statistics contained in power point presentation.

Mike Murray asked for general comments from the group. Various comments were received from those in attendance, which are summarized on the next page.

Mike Murray then thanked everyone for attending & adjourned the meeting.

Steering Committee Notes (con't)

Comments from Attendees

Harry Saltzgaver – Concerned by the perception and reality of the homeless. Felt that the presentation was educational, and is convinced that a lot of people need to step up.

Steve Chesser – There is a need to overcome the caricature of homelessness. Those that are on the streets by choice need to be accountable, because they become the public vision. We need to overcome this perception.

Jen Garber – Jesse James is interested in the homeless because of the location of West Coast Choppers. The homeless often camp in the area behind WCC and under the Anaheim St. bridge, often just to be near Jesse.

Ray Pok – 7th district is proud to have homeless services, and is sensitive to issue that affects the entire city. He can see that services that we take for granted are required for daily existence.

Ginny Wagener – Would like the steering committee to meet at the Village of Cabrillo.

Arlene Mercer – Read in the LA Times about a funding excess in LA County. Would any of the excess funding be available to LB?

Corinne Schneider – Supervisor Kanabe is helping with the year-round shelter. There is an issue of “fair share” with the surrounding communities. How can we help the smaller communities with their homeless issues?

Nick Ippolito – Clarified the article in the Times. Of the \$24.6 million excess, \$20 million focused on Capital Projects, expansion of beds, or building new projects. Supervisor Kanabe was concerned by the narrow scope of the funding and is working to improve. Community support and building on what is in place is important. Fair share is an important issue. The data shows that homeless are not drifting in and out of communities. Examples from Whittier and Santa Clarita show this.

Judy Seal – Bethune is part of LBusD and serves homeless students K-12 and has transitional housing centered at the Villages at Cabrillo. Goal is to stabilize students so they can stay in school.

Anita Gibbins – Wanted to share experience from Town Hall meeting on Saturday. Formerly homeless man explained the simplest thing to do is to smile at them, it shows that they have been noticed. (respect)

Susan Price – Important to this process is the inclusion of the homeless and formerly homeless.

Niki Tennant – The Town Hall meeting showed that the former process produced results. She hopes to see similar results from this process. The former process resulted in the creation of the MSC, which is unique in that it provides services and outreach.